

# Washington DC

VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER



PGY-1 PHARMACY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

**Dear prospective applicant,**

"It's a Great Day at the Washington DC VA!". The Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) Pharmacy Service has been increasing its capacity to deliver high quality pharmacy services over the last few years. Accomplishments have included increasing the number of operational staff, increasing the number of clinical staff, obtaining Script Pro (a work flow management system), and re-constructing our IV room to be USP 797/800 compliant and user friendly. Additionally, we have had several national presentations at various meetings throughout the country. Last but not least, we have a residency program that is tailored to the needs of the residents and flexible enough to support the uncertain changes in the interest of those residents.

The Washington DC VAMC is proud to have started our PGY1 Residency in the late '90s. The program has been granted accreditation status by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists since June 4, 1997. The Washington DC VAMC pharmacy residency program is affiliated with 20+ schools / colleges of pharmacy and hospitals throughout the country, including Howard University, Chicago State University, Mercer University, and Union Memorial Hospital to name a few.

Our program offers a diverse experience in a Federal Healthcare System with an inpatient, outpatient and clinical pharmacy service. The program offers learning experiences ranging from Internal Medicine, Primary Care / Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) and Anticoagulation (core experiences) to Surgical Intensive Care Unit, Hepatitis C / HIV, Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) and Mental Health (elective experiences).

Residents will be able to enjoy the many opportunities that are offered in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area in addition to the pharmacy residency learning experiences. The Washington DC VAMC pharmacy residency program has always strived to complement the residents to foster their growth into the highly effective, competent, confident, clinical pharmacist who will receive as much as they offer throughout the year.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Regards,

**Ivan P. Cephas, PharmD**  
**Chief, Pharmacy Service**



**VA** | Defining  
**HEALTH CARE** **EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century



# O V E R V I E W

---

## WASHINGTON DC VA MEDICAL CENTER

The Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) is located in the nation's capitol and is a tertiary care teaching facility. The Medical Center has 164 acute care beds, 30 Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment beds, and a 20-suite Fisher House. The Medical Center is also home to an adjacent 120-bed Community Living Center which provides Veterans with geriatric long-term care, hospice, and palliative care.

The more than 2,000 employees and volunteers of the Washington DC VAMC take great pride in providing world-class health care to all Veterans in an environment that fosters compassion, commitment, and service. Our staff provides comprehensive primary and specialty care for veterans. Specialized services include: Invasive and noninvasive cardiology, home based primary care, women's health, renal care, trauma services, nutritional services, homeless outreach, substance abuse treatment, recreation therapy, alternative therapies, and more.

Our mission is to respect and serve our nation's veterans by honoring them with safe, quality, and compassionate health care while offering service excellence at our main facility and our six community-based clinics (CBOCs) located in Ft. Belvoir, VA; Southeast Washington, DC; Charlotte Hall, Montgomery County, Camp Springs, and Lexington Park, MD.

*“To care for him  
who shall have  
borne the battle  
and for his widow,  
and his orphan.”*

# P R O G R A M

*PGY-1 PHARMACY*

## OVERVIEW

The Post-Graduate Year One (PGY-1) Pharmacy Residency Program at the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) is designed for residents interested in practicing in a number of areas, including ambulatory care and acute inpatient care. The residency program is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and is one year in length, beginning at the end of June.

The purpose of this PGY-1 pharmacy residency program is to build on Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) education and outcomes to contribute to the development of clinical pharmacists responsible for medication-related care of patients with a wide range of conditions, eligible for board certification, and eligible for postgraduate year two (PGY-2) pharmacy residency training.



## INFORMATION & BENEFITS

- Duration: 12 months
- Number of positions: 2
- Estimated stipend: \$46,973
- 13 days annual leave accrued
- 13 days paid sick leave accrued
- Health insurance: Full medical and dental available
- Individual resident workspace with personal desk and computer
- Potential opportunities for dual appointment
- Competitive funding for education and travel
- Free parking or Metro benefits



# STRUCTURE

---

## *RESIDENCY PROGRAM*



### ROTATION STRUCTURE

- Approximately 4 week orientation at beginning of academic year
- 3 required core rotations (5 weeks)
  - Patient-Aligned Care Team (PACT) - Primary Care
  - Anticoagulation Clinic
  - Internal Medicine
- 5 longitudinal experiences (year-round)
  - Administration
  - Drug Information
  - Research
  - Primary Care Clinic
  - Staffing
- Elective rotations, duration between 4 to 12 weeks and selection determined by resident

### PROJECTS & ASSIGNMENTS

- Completion of a research project and presentation at ASHP Midyear Clinical Conference and Eastern States Conference, with written manuscript suitable for publication in professional literature
- Formulary management
  - Participation in Pharmacy & Therapeutics (P&T) Committee
  - Completion of 1 drug use evaluation
  - Completion of monthly adverse drug event reports
- Administration
  - Completion of 1 quality improvement project
  - Quarterly pharmacy newsletter
- Drug information
  - Monthly topic presentation or journal club discussion
  - Completion of drug information questions

# ROTATIONS

---



## LONGITUDINAL EXPERIENCES

### Administration

*Preceptors: Berook Addisu, PharmD, BCPS; Abigail Ellis, PharmD, BCPS; Carolyn Rivers, PharmD*

In this rotation, residents will have the opportunity to participate in activities such as policy determinations, attend and plan committee meetings, and interact with members of the hospital senior management team. This learning experience will involve leadership training application, system improvement, project development, and more.

### Drug Information

*Preceptors: Ezinne Anumudu, PharmD, BCPS; Samantha Choy, PharmD*

This rotation will provide residents the opportunity to acquire educational and practical experiences in providing objective and current drug information to health care professionals. Residents will also be able to serve as preceptors, obtain a teaching certificate, give lectures, and lead clinical conference for pharmacy students.

### Primary Care Clinic

*Preceptors: Sylvia Lee, PharmD, BCPS; Divivian Jerome-McGuire, PharmD, BCACP*

This rotation will allow residents to develop expertise and knowledge of common chronic disease states through direct patient care in the ambulatory care setting. Residents will provide a consultative service as the drug information expert of the team, conduct medication chart and order reviews, and provide comprehensive medication counseling and education.

### Research

*Preceptor: Determined by research project*

Residents will develop and complete an IRB-approved research project, with a preceptor serving as a mentor. Each resident will then present their research at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and the Eastern States Regional Meeting.

## CORE ROTATIONS

### Anticoagulation Clinic

*Preceptors: Samantha Choy, PharmD; Jacqueline Douglas, PharmD*

This rotation will provide residents with a better understanding of the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of warfarin and other anticoagulants used in the outpatient setting. Residents will have a direct role in patient care consultation, pharmacokinetic evaluation, and chart review among other activities.

More than half of our preceptors possess Scopes of Practices, meaning they have **prescriptive authority**.

Many of our preceptors are **board certified** or have **VA residency training**.



## CORE ROTATIONS (CONT.)

### Internal Medicine

*Preceptors: Sumana Alex, PharmD, BCPS; Bi Kim, PharmD, BCPS; Albert Ly, PharmD, BCPS*

Residents will be introduced to treatment modalities, pharmacotherapy, and monitoring parameters that are unique to the hospital ward settings. They will be expected to provide individualized evaluation of drug therapy and participate in patient care by interacting with physicians and other health care professionals.

### Patient Care Aligned Team (PACT) - Primary Care

*Preceptors: Jessica Boh, PharmD, BCACP; Sehin Degefu, RPh, BCACP; Danielle LaPrad, PharmD, BCACP; Chelsie Morrison, PharmD, BCPS; Amanda Ryan, PharmD, BCACP*

During this rotation, residents will have the opportunity to develop and maintain an in-depth knowledge of pharmacotherapy and management of common chronic disease states. Residents will serve as members of the PACT and will be responsible for designing and implementing pharmacotherapy changes to regimens and patient counseling.

## ELECTIVE ROTATIONS

### Academic Detailing

*Preceptor: Nadia Jubran, PharmD, BCACP*

This rotation is an interactive outreach to health care professionals to provide unbiased, non-commercial, evidence-based information about medications and therapeutic decisions to improve patient care outcomes. Residents will have the opportunity to meet with providers and educate on current marketing campaigns and learn techniques based on a highly effective communication approach utilized by pharmaceutical industry sales representatives.

### Antimicrobial Stewardship

*Preceptors: Ayne Adenew, PharmD, BCPS*

This rotation will provide residents with an understanding of the threat of antimicrobial resistance and the importance of antimicrobial stewardship in a hospital setting. Residents will review antimicrobials utilized in the hospital and perform different interventions to promote patient safety in collaboration with the infectious disease consult service, along with conducting prospective antimicrobial audits, performing pharmacokinetic evaluations, and more.

# ROTATIONS

---



## ELECTIVE ROTATIONS (CONT.)

### **Clinical Resource Hub (CRH) Program Management**

*Preceptor: Kong 'Kit' Wong, PharmD, BCACP*

On this rotation, residents will have the opportunity to collaborate with stakeholders to grow VISN wide clinical pharmacy services to deliver high-quality, cost-effective care to our veterans. Residents will be delegated projects and attend meetings to understand and expand clinical pharmacy services to support the needs of VISN 5. The CRH also houses virtual care services for VISN 5, and residents will also work as a part of the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) for the Tele-Primary Care CRH at least one day each week. Residents will be responsible for designing and implementing pharmacotherapy changes to regimens, patient education/counseling, thorough chart reviews, pharmacokinetic evaluations of medications, and documenting interventions and therapeutic plans.

### **Geriatrics - Community Living Center**

*Preceptors: Tiffany Brooks, PharmD, BCACP, BCGP; Tiffany Lee, PharmD, BCPS*

This rotation is designed to give residents experience in our Community Living Center (CLC), our equivalent of long-term care. Patients can be admitted for skilled nursing services, hospice/palliative care, short-stay, or sub-acute rehab. As part of the interdisciplinary team, residents will work regularly with the team to develop care plans, resolve medication-related concerns for patients, and complete monthly medication regimen reviews.

### **Geriatrics - Home-Based Primary Care**

*Preceptor: Stephanie Brimley, PharmD*

This rotation provides a unique experience to residents to provide comprehensive, interdisciplinary primary care for veterans with complex behavioral, medical, and social conditions. Residents will conduct comprehensive medication reviews for patients and provide patient-specific pharmacologic consultations as needed, attend weekly interdisciplinary meetings to review patient care plans, and conduct medication counseling and education.

### **Hematology/Oncology**

*Preceptor: Shrina Thomas, PharmD, BCOP*

This rotation will allow residents to take responsibility and function as the drug therapy consultant for the service. Residents will have the opportunity to improve their understanding of the special diagnostic and pharmacological needs of patients seen by the Hematology/Oncology service, and will also be involved in patient care consultation, medication chart and order reviews, and patient medication counseling.

Key strengths of our residency from past resident surveys include **flexibility with rotations, highly effective preceptors, and friendly pharmacy staff.**



## ELECTIVE ROTATIONS (CONT.)

### Infectious Disease

*Preceptor: Pierre Ndje, PharmD, BCPS*

In this rotation, residents will interact with other health care providers and be directly involved in the provision of pharmaceutical care for assigned patients. They will provide medication counseling, conduct chart reviews, and provide appropriate follow-up. Residents will become proficient in topics like HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and various bacterial, viral and fungal infections.

### Inpatient Psychiatry

*Preceptor: Kasraie Williamson, PharmD*

As part of the inpatient psychiatry care team, residents will be directly involved in the provision of pharmaceutical care for those patients treated on the inpatient psychiatry unit. Residents will be involved in psychopharmacology consultation, staff education, medication chart review, pharmacokinetic evaluation, medication order review, patient medication counseling, and patient medication group activities.

### Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU)

*Preceptor: Robert Svingos, PharmD, BCPS*

Residents will be introduced to the treatment modalities, pharmacotherapy, and patient monitoring parameters that are unique to the ICU setting. Residents will develop and practice the skills of patient assessment, pharmacotherapy planning, patient monitoring, and evaluation of outcomes for a variety of critical conditions.

### Pain Management

*Preceptor: Lauren Schroth, PharmD, BCPS; Rebecca Hernandez, PharmD, BCPS*

This rotation is designed to give residents an experience in various pain management settings which include primarily chronic non-malignant pain with some exposure to malignant pain, acute pain, and substance abuse. As part of the Chronic Pain Clinic (CPC) team, residents will address medication needs of patients, including but not limited to, optimizing non-opioid pain medication regimens, tapering opioids, opioid rotation, opioid pharmacotherapy recommendations, monitoring of opioid and non-opioid medications, and medication reconciliation/education.

### Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) - Endocrinology

*Preceptor: LaQuinta Atley, PharmD, BCACP*

During this rotation, residents will have the opportunity to develop and maintain an in-depth knowledge of pharmacotherapy and management of common chronic disease states. Residents will serve as members of the endocrinology team and will be responsible for designing and implementing pharmacotherapy changes and patient counseling.

# ROTATIONS

---



## ELECTIVE ROTATIONS (CONT.)

### **Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) - Women's Health**

*Preceptor: Esther Parker, PharmD, BCACP*

This rotation will introduce residents to providing care specific for women veterans in the primary care setting. Residents will work as part of an interdisciplinary team with gynecology providers, primary care providers, and the maternity care/IVF team to provide preconception medication reviews and ensure coordination of care with patients.

### **Pharmacoeconomics**

*Preceptor: William Gage, PharmD*

The Pharmacoeconomics experience is designed to introduce the pharmacy resident to a pharmacist's role in pharmacy informatics and healthcare analytics. The rotation will focus on the topics of pharmacy administration, cost containment, health outcomes, business intelligence, and data analysis to best support the facility's patient-centered and business-conscious goals. This rotation offers an opportunity to develop the resident's understanding of clinical informatics and analysis by building hands-on experience with health information technologies including pharmacy automation systems, healthcare databases, and the electronic health record's order entry components.

### **Primary Care Mental Health Integration (PCMHI) - Mental Health / Substance Abuse**

*Preceptor: Jasmine Carpenter, PharmD, BCPP*

This rotation allows residents to be part of the mental health primary care team and become directly involved in the provision of pharmaceutical care for patients. Residents will have exposure to various outpatient mental health specialty programs such as the Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program and the Mental Health Intensive Case Management program.

### **Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU)**

*Preceptor: Ezinne Anumudu, PharmD, BCPS*

Residents will be introduced to treatment modalities, pharmacotherapy, and patient monitoring parameters that are unique to the surgical ICU setting. They will also develop skills in pharmacotherapy planning, patient assessment, and outcomes evaluations after procedures in the surgical ICU.



# ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES

---

## *TEACHING AND STAFFING*

### TEACHING

We have academic relationships with multiple schools of pharmacy, including Howard School of Pharmacy, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, Shenandoah School of Pharmacy, and many more.

Residents will lead weekly clinical conferences for students on rotation. Residents will also have the opportunity to serve as preceptors for students on APPE rotations.

#### **Teaching certificate:**

During the residency year, residents have the opportunity to pursue a teaching certificate through The Washington Metropolitan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (WMSHP). The certification program provides residents an opportunity to enhance teaching skills through practical training and actual hands on teaching experience both in the university setting as well as the clinical practice setting. Graduates of the program should be able to design and implement educational programs within the classroom and clinical practice environment. Potential teaching opportunities include continuing education (CE) classes and teaching academic classes at regional pharmacy schools.



### STAFFING

All residents are required to complete a pharmacy practice component of the residency program, staffing. The staffing component facilitates the development of pharmacy practice skills and order processing in an inpatient pharmaceutical setting.

Residents are required to staff inpatient pharmacy once every four weeks. The staffing schedule for the year will be prepared and submitted by the designated chief resident. In addition, residents are also required to staff one major and two minor holidays.



# APPLICATION PROCESS

---

*PHORCAS MATCH INFORMATION:*  
VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER -  
WASHINGTON - 1483

## QUALIFICATIONS

The candidate must:

- Possess a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from an ACPE accredited college of pharmacy
- Be licensed by the beginning of October or within 3 months of start date (any US State)
- Have U.S. citizenship

## APPLICATION

Applicants interested in the program are required to submit the following materials through the Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service (PHORCAS™) by the beginning of January. Please refer to the PHORCAS™ website for specific dates.

- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Official transcripts
- Three (3) Letters of Recommendation, submitted in PHORCAS™
- Letter of Intent

The Washington DC VAMC will be participating in the ASHP Resident Matching Program and PHORCAS™.

*Looking forward to your application!*



---

# PHARMACY LEADERSHIP

---



*IVAN CEPHAS, PHARM.D*  
**CHIEF OF PHARMACY**

Email: [Ivan.Cephas@va.gov](mailto:Ivan.Cephas@va.gov)

*BEROOK ADDISU, PHARM.D, BCPS*  
**ASSOCIATE CHIEF OF PHARMACY,  
OPERATIONS**

Email: [Berook.Addisu@va.gov](mailto:Berook.Addisu@va.gov)



*ABIGAIL ELLIS, PHARM.D, BCPS*  
**ASSOCIATE CHIEF OF PHARMACY,  
CLINICAL**

Email: [Abigail.Ellis@va.gov](mailto:Abigail.Ellis@va.gov)

*JASMINE CARPENTER, PHARM.D, BCPP*  
**PGY-1 PHARMACY RESIDENCY DIRECTOR  
CLINICAL PHARMACIST PRACTITIONER,  
PCMHI MENTAL HEALTH/SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Email: [Jasmine.Carpenter@va.gov](mailto:Jasmine.Carpenter@va.gov)



---

# P A S T R E S I D E N T S

---

2021



## **VICTORIA DOWNS, PHARM D**

*Position after completing residency:*  
PRN Clinical Pharmacist, Washington DC VAMC

2020



## **JONATHAN GREEN, PHARM D**

*Position after completing residency:*  
PGY-2 in Ambulatory Care, VA Maryland Health Care System

*Current position:*  
PRN PACT Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner, VA Maryland Health Care System



## **JENNIFER MILLER, PHARM D**

*Position after completing residency & current position:*  
Manager of Clinical Pharmacy, Client Relations, and Development,  
Anchor Pharmacy & Medical Supplies

2019



## **VENISE DE ETOULEM, PHARM D**

*Position after completing residency:*  
PGY-2 in Specialty Pharmacy Administration and Leadership, Maxor  
National Pharmacy

*Current position:*  
HIV/Hep C Specialty Clinical Pharmacist, Whitman-Walker Pharmacy



## **PAWLOSE KETEMA, PHARM D**

*Position after completing residency:*  
PGY-2 in Infectious Disease, Boston Medical Center

*Current position:*  
Infectious Disease and Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Pharmacist,  
Northwest Hospital

---

# P A S T R E S I D E N T S

---

2018



## EILEEN HOLOVAC, PHARMD

*Position after completing residency:*

PGY-2 in Hematology/Oncology, Southern Arizona VAHCS

*Current position:*

Hematology/Oncology Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner, Loma Linda VA



## TIFFANY LEE, PHARMD, BCPS

*Position after completing residency:*

Primary Care Clinical Pharmacist, Washington DC VAMC

*Current position:*

CLC Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner, Washington DC VAMC

2017



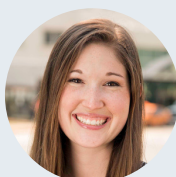
## YEWANDE DAYO, PHARMD

*Position after completing residency:*

PGY-2 in Infectious Disease, Michael E. DeBakey VAMC

*Current position:*

Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner, Fort Worth Texas VA



## DANIELLE LAPRAD, PHARMD, BCACP

*Position after completing residency:*

PGY-2 in Ambulatory Care, VA Maryland Health Care System

*Current position:*

PACT Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner, Washington DC VAMC

2016



## BI KIM, PHARMD, BCPS

*Position after completing residency:*

Inpatient Pharmacist, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

*Current position:*

Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner, Washington DC VAMC



## CHELSIE MORRISON, PHARMD, BCPS

*Position after completing residency:*

Inpatient Clinical Pharmacist, Washington DC VAMC

*Current position:*

PACT Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner, Washington DC VAMC

---

# P A S T R E S I D E N T S

---

2015



**PIERRE NDJE, PHARMD, BCPS**

*Position after completing residency & current position:*

Infectious Disease Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner, Washington DC VAMC



**KONG 'KIT' WONG, PHARMD, BCACP**

*Position after completing residency:*

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist II MTM, Kaiser Permanente

*Current position:*

VISN 5 Program Manager, Clinical Resource Hub Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner

## F U N   F A C T S

---

**Greater than 80%** of our graduating residents have secured **clinical pharmacy specialist** positions within the VA.

**100%** of our past residents who applied for **PGY-2 Residency programs** have matched with the specialty of their choice.

**100%** of past surveyed residents found that this residency was a good fit for them and felt that the program provided an environment for promoting residents' well-being and addressing burnout.





Washington DC VA Medical Center  
50 Irving St. NW  
Washington, DC 20422